



*"The workhorse of the Air Force"*

# Buckeye Flyer

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## Wing to get C-5 Galaxy

### *Transition should stabilize wing's future*

by MSgt. John Klemack  
445th AW/Public Affairs

The C-5 Galaxy is one of the largest aircraft in the world. It can carry outsize and oversize cargo internationally, and can take off or land in relatively short distances. If all goes as planned, a number of them will soon be based here with the 445th Airlift Wing.

"I'm pleased that the Air Force will take advantage of our proficiency in our primary core competency – strategic airlift," said the wing's commander, Brig. Gen. Paul R. Cooper. He went on to express his gratitude for the ground swell of community support for the unit and its mission, saying, "The people of the Miami Valley have always been extremely encouraging and helpful to us. They are our neighbors. This is our home."

Cooper said that his recruiters are enthusiastic about the venerable aircraft coming to the unit and how it will affect the wing's manning. He said that there has been a lot of uncertainty about the wing's future because it is well known that our current

aircraft, the C-141 Starlifter, has for some time been on the list of Air Force aircraft programmed to retire soon. "Now that the decision has been made, our people have some direction and can make plans. The transition to C-5s should bode well for our recruiters and for personnel retention," Cooper added.

Gen. Cooper was in Washington, D.C., April 15 where the commander of Air Force Reserve Command, Lt. Gen. James Sherrard, briefed him on what the Air Force calls its 15-Year Mobility Roadmap. At the same time, other Air Force officials were providing information on Air Force plans for the next 15 years to members of Congress. The briefings have been characterized as a "peak under the tent" for congress and were designed to serve as an agreed-upon starting point for discussion.

"The actual transition from the C-141 to the C-5 is programmed to happen starting in 2006," added Cooper. "Of course, things could change between now and then, but I'm optimistic that the Air Force and congress will follow through on the current plan."

The wing will receive 10 C-5A Galaxy aircraft. Eight aircraft will arrive in 2006 and the last two in 2007. Included with this plan is military construction worth \$65 million dollars for three new hangars and a new operations building.

## Wing Food Drive

by 1st Lt. Darren Duncan  
445th AW/Chaplain

*"Then the righteous will answer Him saying, 'Lord when did we see You hungry, and feed You...' And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of mine, even the least of them, you did it to me.'" Matthew 25:37, 40*

During the months of June, July and August in 2002, we will conduct a food drive for The American Red Cross Emergency Food Bank. We will begin collecting the food in June.

To add some interest to this drive, each of the squadrons will compete against one another for the total number of canned goods donated. We are asking each squadron to count their cans and report these numbers to the chaplain's office when they pick up the cans on the Saturday morning of each UTA.

The squadron who donates the most cans will be recognized at the Quarterly Wing Commander's Call in October.

This is an excellent opportunity to show some support for the community, as well as, meet the needs of those who are less fortunate than us.

## Before the flag is passed

by Brig. Gen. Paul Cooper  
445th Airlift Wing commander

By the time you read this, I'm quite sure "the reality" will have sunk in. I will know that my fascinating journey of nearly 35 years has come to an end.

Retirement. When I pinned on my first lieutenant's bars more than three decades ago, that thought was the farthest thing from my mind. And now it's here.

While the journey has been long, it has also been supremely rewarding and satisfying. What's made it so has been solid support from the many hard-working and dedicated Citizen Airmen – friends all – who have inspired me and given me purpose.

My wife Katherine and I have been so fortunate to have made this journey surrounded by consummate military professionals and patriots. Every assigned unit; every base; every flight; every exercise; every inspection; every contingency; every operation – in every single experience – we have felt the energy, honesty, hard work and wisdom of so many just plain good people.

There is no doubt that the only way the United States of America can respond to the call for military action anywhere in the world today, is by relying heavily on its reserve component members. And the only way those dedicated Citizen Airmen can do their critically important jobs is with the love and support of their families, friends and employers. We are proud to have been a part of this magnificent organization of selfless people.

Kathy and I are honored at having the final assignment of my career be that of commander of the 445th Airlift Wing. The Wing has a proud tradition and a bright future.

Major construction to accommodate the aircraft that will replace our beloved C-141s will start within a few short years.

Whatever your opinion on the changes to come, one thing is certain: the Air Force and the Air Force Reserve Command have, by their decision, validated our wing's expertise in performing the strategic airlift mission. There is no finer group of individuals and no more fine-tuned team than that which is found here at the 445th. I have no reservations at all characterizing this stellar unit as the very best wing in the Air Force Reserve Command. I truly envy Col. Moen as I pass the flag of command into his worthy and capable hands.

Kathy and I are grateful for the all too short time we have worked side-by-side with you all. We will never forget you. You have been the wind beneath our wings. Continue to fly high, straight and true.

**Godspeed.**

**And one last time... carry on!**



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# Handling jetlag comes with the territory

by SSgt. Charlie Miller  
445th AW/Public Affairs

Jetlag settles in once again. The spacey, almost surreal feeling saturates the brain and body - familiar territory for members of the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. Thankfully, another aero medical transoceanic flight nears completion.

"Knowing your limits, knowing when to say 'Hey, I need a break,' that's how I handle jetlag," said 1st Lt. Christy Jones, a flight nurse with the AES. She served as medical crew director for a recent mission to Ramstein Air Base, Germany to pick up patients for transport back to the United States. "Physical fitness helps you tolerate the stress of flight. I've found plenty of rest the night before a mission helps. If I can get a break from working with the patients, I take it. For this mission, I was expecting an 18 hour work day," she said.

Thirty patients and attendants were cared for on the 10 and one half hour flight. One gentleman was on a ventilator and needed constant monitoring. There were several children needing stateside medical attention, some psychiatric patients, a neonatal patient and other patients that were all flown to Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

"Treating patients in the air is the ultimate challenge," said Lt. Col Cathy Seibert, chief of aircrew training for the Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron. "There are no resources like that in a hospital. You don't have the resources if x-y-z happens to a patient. If they deteriorate over the Atlantic, I may have to tell the pilot that we need to land, now."

Jones, who has been with the 445th AES for 18 months, was making her first trip overseas with the wing. "I'll volunteer for this type of mission again, oh yeah," she said emphatically, adding that she can't wait for the next one to come available. "There is no better way to serve people. I'm a nurse in the Air Force Reserve;



Nurse 1st Lt. Christy Jones from the 445th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron attends to a child patient on a C-141 aircraft bound for Andrews AFB. (Photo by SSgt. Charlie Miller with parent permission)

I'm here to serve. Life is about choices and I've made mine." The lieutenant works as an emergency room and critical care nurse in Nashville, Tenn. where 12-hour days and a certain amount of stress are pretty normal. But this mission was a new experience.

Duty has called again and the AES team has again answered. The missions will continue. No end in site.

But this edition of the aero medical evacuation flight is finished and the patients have again been well cared for. The 445th medical professionals never let a little fatigue from a long flight hamper their care for patients. They'll rest for now, looking forward to the next mission and the next group of patients. There may well be jetlag on that next mission. But they really don't care; they'll just push through it. It comes with the territory.

## Wright-Patterson & Hill combine for joint ABDR exercise

by Master Sgt. Charles Duke  
445th CLSS/UPAR

The 445th Combat Logistics Support Squadron deployed an Air Battle Damage Repair (ABDR) team to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz to participate in a joint 5-day exercise with active duty and reserve units from Hill AFB, Utah.

The 649th and 419th CLSS units from Hill AFB acted as evaluators and participants. The exercise resulted in a teaching and fact-finding experience. 445th personnel stepped to the plate and

received a score of 92.6 percent.

Various damages were injected so that participants could show assessment skills, self-aid buddy care and technical know-how. Hostile environment training took place, work was completed while wearing the chemical warfare ensemble and searches for unidentified explosive ordnance, were accomplished.

The teams were comprised of crew chiefs, sheet metal, fuels and electro-environmental technicians from Hill and Wright-Patterson.

Areas evaluated during the exercise were safety, self-aid buddy care, damage

assessment, and completion of repairs.

Senior Master Sgt. James Villella, 445th CLSS acted as team chief for one of the teams and felt the following were key points for a successful exercise:

1. Play for real, move quickly
2. Practice safety at all times
3. Communicate up and down the chain of command
4. Don't be afraid to ask questions
5. Rely on technicians experience

The exercise was a success; we left knowing areas that needed improvement. Reservists began making improvements before leaving Arizona.





# Lights... Camera... Action!

*Command to shoot a commercial at Wright-Patterson*



*TMP Worldwide advertising agency gets upclose with a C-141 aircraft to film the aircrew through a window for an Air Force Reserve recruiting commercial. (Photo by Maj. Ted Theopolos)*

*by Maj. Ted Theopolos*  
445th AW/Public Affairs

Local reservists will have their chance to see themselves on a television commercial. Air Force Reserve Recruiting is filming a command commercial here at Wright-Patterson May 21-23. One spot of the commercial was already produced on April 11 to give a taste of what's to come.

AFRC has a contract with TMP Worldwide Inc. advertising agency to produce a commercial for the command. Reservists will play their own part, no professional actors as in the past, by performing what they do for the Air Force Reserve. The commercial is focusing on aircrew members and medical evacuation personnel. Pilots, engineers, loadmasters and medical personnel have already been cast for the part.

The agency has brought in some of the industries best to produce the commercial.

Independent director and producer Sterling Martell will bring his experience. He has directed commercials for Reebok, JB Hunt Trucking, United Airlines and Subway. His main claim to the film industry was during the late 70s and early 80s. He worked on television productions including Vegas and Magnum PI and was producer for the feature film "Stroker Ace" with Burt Reynolds.

Other film crewmembers include John Gunselman who has directed photography on national and local TV commercials such as Kings Island, Lazarus, Ohio State Lottery and Proctor & Gamble. TV episodes he has worked on include: Thunder Ally, Wreck Szabo, American Chronicles and That's Incredible. Mr. Robert Small will do any special effects needed for the commercial. He has worked on films such as Being John Malcovich, Titanic and Apollo 13. In the commercial industry he has worked on Nissan and Got Milk spots.

Already the crew has filmed pilots in a C-141 with engines idling to give the look of flying. Lights moved across the aircraft's windshield as if sunlight was bouncing off the glass. Pilots Capt. Mike Baker and 1st Lt. Brett Manager donned their headsets and spoke through the aircraft communication system, which was picked-up by the film crew's microphone. Tech. Sgt. Lynn Robertson, flight engineer was also aboard for the filming.

It was no easy day either for the crewmembers or the maintenance crew who had to position the aircraft just right. The plane was moved to show no aircraft behind it and to eliminate shadows on the tail and windshield.

When the crew comes back in May, they will bring equipment in, just like shooting a film off location. Generators for power, make-up facility, and a trailer for chefs to prepare food will come with the crew. The AFRC commercial should air in the fall.

# Commander reflects on career with the 445th

by SSgt. Charlie Miller  
445th AW/Public Affairs

To say an article written about retiring wing commander Brigadier General Paul Cooper should be tasteful and dignified goes without saying. His distinguished career ends with sweeping accolades from his superiors for the advances the 445th made under his command.

When asked about his biggest accomplishments during his tenure with the wing, one stood out, head and shoulders above the rest.

"If I'd gauge whether I've been successful or not here at the 445th, I'd put the Outstanding Unit Award on top. The award is available for any unit in the Air Force and it looks at all aspects of a unit. We were able to win the award getting through some very tough competition. Two thousand ribbons were passed out as a result of everyone's hard work."

And the general believes that the 445th is readying itself for another one. "The wings response to 9-11 and the al-Qaeda detainee transportation are a good start on another award. Each time I've left a unit, it's won an outstanding unit award."

The general mentioned a number of other accomplishments he was proud of.

"Manning was at 95 percent when I took command. We are now at 109 percent." Cooper said manning was one the top priorities when he took command and that currently being over manned is a good thing. "The new recruiting office in Louisville was a help. There is no Air Force Reserve unit in Kentucky and we have had a number of people from the Louisville area join the 445th."

"Getting the flying squadrons through the many conversions was very important. They had been in conversion from the C-141B to the C-minus model to the C-plus model for a number of years, all the way back to the days at Rickenbacker Air Force Base."

"Bringing the C-141 school house here was another big event. There was no real backup plan for us during its set-up. We had to execute flawlessly during the set-up phase and we did."

The C-141 will someday in the future be retired. Without the C-141 flying mission, the 445th could cease to exist. Gen. Cooper has worked extensively on the wing's future.

"I feel good about helping to get the follow-on mission for the 445th. Getting the community and area Congressional people involved was very important. The survivability of 2000 reservists' jobs and a flying activity at Wright-Patterson were on the line."

The general also listed doing well with inspections as accomplishments he was proud of. "The first EORI's with AES, ASTS, PA, and the 87th Aerial Port are done. The inspections for the remainder of the wing will be a big challenge for the new commander. I wish I could stay for the rest and play coach for the final game."



**Brig. Gen. Paul Cooper, 445th Airlift Wing commander pilots a C-141 on an overseas mission. His military career will come to an end in May when he retires. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Charlie Miller)**

"The awards and decorations have tripled since I arrived 3 years ago. People have a sense of satisfaction when they are recognized and when they earn promotions. The Commander's Silver Coin is a simple thing but it gives people a chance to be recognized for doing an outstanding job in their units. Giving out coins get me out into the shops, to see people and talk with them. One time, a commander wanted to award a coin to everyone in a 30-troop shop. I couldn't give out that many coins so we gave one coin to the youngest airman in the shop."

"The 445th's involvement with the AEF has been a success, we've seen a greater involvement of the reservists families, there have been more interesting deployments, and the planned trip to Volk Field are a few other accomplishments. I won't be around, but the plan is to take 3 planes and 200 people up to Volk Field. There has been an increase in leadership responsibility for junior officers and senior NCOs. I believe that helps people move up the ranks with a sense of accomplishment. People enjoy hard work. If they get bored, they get out. Retention is the key to manning."

Future plans? He's loading up his plate even before leaving the 445th.

"The first thing I'll do is take the summer off. I spend ten days

See Commander on Page 6



# Computer users first line of defense against intruders



## Protect your computer

– that is unless computer users protect it.

If users neglect basic security precautions, the Internet capabilities AFRC users need may not be there to carry vital mission information.

Reservists and others throughout the Department of Defense routinely use the Internet despite its vulnerability. The vulnerability is underscored by the number of recent attempts to break into it. In 1999, DOD computer security systems and specialists foiled nearly 22,500 would-be intruders and another 24,500 in 2000. There is no let up in sight.

Command officials are taking steps to improve the security of data systems to meet the increasing threat.

“AFRC operations depend on information systems,” said Lt. Col. Bret Wilson, chief of the operations division in the Headquarters AFRC Directorate of Communications and Information. “It’s important that we make sure our systems and the information they contain are available and protected.

“Our first line of defense is the individual computer user,” he said. “We depend on users to know their responsibilities.”

Computer users can thwart hackers by following these security tips:

- Use the automatic screen saver feature so the monitor goes dark when you leave your desk.
- Lock your machine when you walk away from it by selecting Ctrl, Alt, Del and Lock)
- Scan all discs for viruses using

It’s always there, available at the touch of a key. But although the Internet streamlines Air Force Reserve Command business and speeds up communication, it’s vulnerable

McAfee Virus Scan or Norton Symantec before opening them.

- Do not use any unlicensed software on AFRC computers, including programs you may be using on your home computer.
- Do not download software from the Internet. See your workgroup administrator so he or she can get the software you need from a secure source.
- Report any suspicious e-mails or virus warning notices to your workgroup administrator. Do not open any suspicious e-mails or attachments.
- Change your password often, using at least eight characters from three of four groups – uppercase, lowercase, number and special character. The system automatically enforces a 90-day password change as required by Air Force Instructions.

This last point may be the most important thing computer users can do to help enhance the security of computer systems.

Hackers sometimes use programs to gain access to password-protected information. These programs, which rapidly try various combinations of numbers and letters to figure out a password, can process millions of possible combinations per minute.

The easiest method is to try every word in the dictionary – a relatively simple, quick way to gain access to sensitive information, and unfortunately often successful. It’s not much more difficult for hackers to add a number or character to the beginning or end of words. But the process is made much more difficult by adding random letters, numbers, characters and uppercase letters.

A little math illustrates this point. There are about 12 million possible combinations using five letters of the English alphabet. Increasing that to six letters yields almost 309 million possible combinations – an exponentially more difficult task for potential intruders. (AFRC News Service)

## Commander ...

*continued from Page 5*

a month away from home and I’ll have just one day off during the entire month of April so I’m looking forward to the luxury of having time at home.”

“I want to go back to graduate school and work on a Masters in History. That’s always been an interest of mine. I’m always goal orientated and will be that way even in retired life. I’m planning on doing volunteer work with the Retired Officers Association, Air Force Association and the ESGR on a national level. The VA Medical Center, the Red Cross, Habitat for Humanity and the Beavercreek Wetlands are a few others I want to do some volunteer work for.”

“In the fall I may be teaching at the college level, I’ve been asked to do that. Maybe working here at the pilot’s schoolhouse, I think I qualify for that. I may do some consulting work. I don’t want to work full time.”

“As far as the 445<sup>th</sup> goes, I’ll be able to do things for the wing as a ‘Senior Statesman’ - as a ‘retired guy’ - that I can’t do now.” General Cooper said he and his wife, Katherine, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, plan to continue living in the Wright-Patt area. Mrs. Cooper works part time for the St. Agnes Corpus Christi parish, Dayton, where she coordinates volunteers and activities.

Gen. Cooper, a native of Seattle, Wash., was commissioned as a second lieutenant from the University of Washington Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1967, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. He has served a wing commander, a regional support commander, squadron commander and the installation commander at two Air Force Reserve bases. He held a variety of key staff positions including chief of staff at two numbered air forces.

Recalled to active duty during Operation Desert Storm, he commanded a composite C-130 unit that deployed to the Middle East for six months. He was selected to return to extended active duty again in 1996 to command the Tuzla NATO AB, Bosnia-Herzegovina.





## Welcome and Congratulations!

### Promotions

*Congratulations to the following personnel, recently promoted to the rank indicated:*

#### Airman First Class

James Jones, 445 SFS



#### Technical Sergeant

Jeffrey Baldwin, 445 SFS  
Chris Fogle, 445 SFS  
Gerald Johnson, 445 AES  
Kevin Kitchen, 445 CES  
Michael Parshall, 445 MXS



#### Master Sergeant

Michael Brimmer, 89 AS  
William Cornett, 356 AS  
Edward Engel, 445 MXS  
Terry Netts, 445 MXS  
Joseph Tharp, 445 MXS



#### Senior Master Sergeant

Katherine Daniel,  
445 AES



### Newcomers

*Welcome to the following reservists, recently assigned to the 445th AW:*

AB Lavada Donaphin, 445 ASTS  
A1C Robin Spurlock, 445 MSS  
A1C Jason Thornton, 445 CLSS  
A1C Patrick Wolfe, 445 CLSS  
A1C Scott King, 445 SFS  
SrA. Damon Drake, 445 AGS  
SrA. Jeremy Edenfield, 445 MXS  
SSgt. Gary Muckerheide, 445 LSS  
SSgt. John Blaylock, 445 MSS  
SSgt. Boyce Isabel, 87 APS  
SSgt. Brian Heft, 445 CF  
TSgt. Judy Townsend, 445 MSS  
TSgt. Timothy Pawlaczyk, 445 AES

### Reenlistments

*Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently re-enlisted in the Reserve.*

SrA. John Kaufman II, 445 AMDS  
SrA. Caroline Rogers, 445 OSS

SSgt. Ryan Collins, 87 APS  
TSgt. Vincent Bidzilya, 445 LSS  
TSgt. Charles Braun, 87 APS  
TSgt. Steven Brown, 445 OSS  
TSgt. Kimberly Capers, 445 MSS  
TSgt. Robert Henseleit, 445 AGS  
TSgt. Dirk King, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. Wilson Lyons, Jr., 445 AGS  
TSgt. Tracy Meadows, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. Kelly Mobley, 445 MSS  
TSgt. Raymond Moss, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. Georgia Ricketts, 445 LSS  
TSgt. Rebecca Spencer, 445 LSS  
TSgt. Douglas Werner, 445 AGS  
SMSgt. Paul Curtis, 445 CLSS  
SMSgt. Harry Green, 445 CLSS  
SMSgt. Ranold Seymour, Jr., 445 AGS  
SMSgt. James Villella, 445 CLSS

### Awards

*Congratulations to the following 445th AW members who recently earned awards.*

#### Air Force Achievement Medal

SrA. Andrew McNabb, 445 OSS  
SSgt. Scott Lawson, 445 CLSS  
SSgt. Ed Sims, 445 CLSS

#### Air Force Commendation Medal

TSgt. Leegurtha Lucas, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. William Stringer Jr., 445 CLSS  
TSgt. Ron Voris, 445 CLSS  
TSgt. James Williamson, 87 APS  
MSGT. Brian Hodge, 356 AS  
1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gregory Bules, 356 AS  
Capt. Michael Baker, 89 AS

#### Meritorious Service Medal

SMSgt. Robert Davis, 445 CLSS  
Lt.Col. Keith Kries, 356 AS

### Change of Command

The change of command ceremony for the 445th Airlift Wing will be held Sunday, 5 May in hangar 4024. The ceremony will start at 1000.

### New shot clinic hours

The 445th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's new shot clinic hours to be implemented in June 2002. Immunizations will be provided on Saturday of the UTAs during the following hours: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m and 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Kings Island tickets

Wright-Patt and DIAA Day at Kings Island, 2 June 2002. Tickets are \$20.00 each with free parking. For more information or to purchase tickets

contact the 445th Public Affairs office at 257-5784.



### Air Force Marathon

The United States Air Force Marathon is scheduled for Saturday, September 21, 2002. The 445<sup>th</sup> Airlift Wing is putting together relay teams to participate in the marathon. If you are interested, contact CMSgt. Skip Steinbeiser at 7-0381.



### Wing's Golf Scramble

This year's annual golf scramble will be on 21 June 02 at Sugar Isle golf

course North of New Carlisle, Ohio. It will be a 0900 shotgun start and will cost \$40.00 a person or \$160.00 a team (food and drink included). Due to the RAV & EORI we will not have raffle prizes this year, but we will offer a random draw for first, second and third place teams. Friends and family are welcome, but two members from each team must be either active, retired, or have civilian jobs with the 445th. Please e-mail MSgt John Gram or MSgt Wil McCutcheon for your team reservation ASAP. There is a 36 team limit, so get your names in quick! Fees can be paid up to the day of the outing, cash only! If you have any questions at all please feel free to contact MSgt John Gram @ 70389.



### DOD Armed Forces Bass Tournament

Congratulations to Chief Master Sgt. Ray Combs, 445th Aircraft Generation Squadron and Chief Master Sgt Darrell Cooper, 445th Maintenance Squadron they finished 11th out of 104 boats in the 12th Annual DOD Armed Forces Bass Tournament which was held at Lake Eufaula, Alabama on April 8-12, 2002. For a total weigh-in for the Chiefs was 31.47 lbs. Master Sgt. James Siders, 445th AGS finished 15th place. Chief Master Sgt. Ron McKasson, 445th Mission Support Squadron also attended.



# Altering travel orders can alter your life

by Maj. David Franklin  
445th AW/Ass't staff Judge Advocate

"Whew! It was a long annual tour away from home and I could use a day or two to catch up on things around the house. Would it hurt to tell my civilian boss that I'm on orders for a couple days longer?" You bet it can hurt.

Many federal, state, local and civilian employers provide special benefits for reservists who are performing temporary duty or extended active duty. For instance, time in military status may not count against vacation days or maybe granted differential pay.

However, falsifying travel orders to take advantage of these benefits jeopardizes the member's military career, civilian job, and creates exposure to criminal penalties.

Modifying travel orders with different dates is falsification of official documents that subjects the perpetrator to action under the U.C.M.J. Moreover, the intended target often has company policies that would allow punishment for such action to include termination for cause.



Furthermore, seeking statutorily granted benefits associated with military duty, such as the Soldier & Sailors Relief Act, by falsifying travel orders may be actionable as misrepresentations under civilian criminal statutes. Don't turn an extra day off into extended unemployment!

445th Airlift Wing  
5514 McCormick Road  
Wright-Patterson AFB OH  
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## Honored for excellence is icing on the cake

By SSgt. Charlie Miller  
445th AW/Public Affairs

On April 13, Lt. Col. Kathleen Mathews received the Brig. Gen. Beverly Lindsey Award for Administrative Excellence, an Air Force Reserve-wide award. The award was presented to Mathews by Col Gwenda McClure, command nurse for the Air Force Reserve.

"I was really surprised, truly honored to receive the award," Mathews said at the presentation, which doubled as her retirement ceremony. She expressed gratitude to Col Kerry Breed, commander of the 445th Aerospace Medical Squadron, who nominated her. "Colonel Breed is

wonderful person and a person who worked for me years ago"

"This award is usually presented at the American Medical Society of US Surgeons convention, but due to the

lieutenant colonels retirement it came to her," said Colonel Gwenda McClure. "Only a few people are presented this award."

Mathews also received the Meritorious Service Medal and a

Commander's Silver Coin from wing com-

mander Brig. Gen. Paul Cooper at the combined ceremony. "If it weren't for my mandatory separation date, I'd still be with the 445th," Mathews said. She leaves the wing after 29 years of service.



Lt. Col. Mathews (right) receives award from Col. Gwenda McClure

## New commander for the 356th Airlift Squadron

By Master Sgt. Doug Moore  
445th AW/Public Affairs

"Sir, I relinquish command." In four short words, Col. Keith Kries relinquished command of the 356th Airlift Squadron to Lt. Col. Brian Dominguez, as Col. James Blackman, commander of Operations Group, presided. Col. Kries was promoted to 445th Airlift Wing Vice Commander.

"The 356th AS has a good history of promoting from within the unit," said Col. Kries, "and I am proud to turn over the command to Lt. Col. Dominguez." "I feel confident that he will carry on the great tradition we have within the squadron," Kries said.

"I am really fired up about this opportunity to command the 356th," said Lt. Col. Dominguez. "I know I have some

pretty big shoes to fill, but I am honored to be chosen for this challenging position," said Dominguez.



Col. Blackman, commander of 445th Operations Group hands the 356th Airlift Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Dominguez who takes command. (Photo by SSgt. Raquel Matthews)

